

Amendments To Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (original) A method of separating, concentrating, or refining a carbon nanotube having a desired physical property from a sample, comprising steps of:

- a) irradiating light to a sample containing carbon nanotubes and
- b) selecting the carbon nanotubes having a desired physical property.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said physical property includes at least either a diameter or a chiral vector.

3. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said carbon nanotube has a single-walled structure.

4. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said light has a certain wavelength within a range covering from the near infrared region to the ultraviolet region.

5. (original) The method according to claim 4, wherein said light is monochromatic light or laser light having said wavelength.

6. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein light irradiation in the step a) is carried out in the presence of metal ions.

7. (original) The method according to claim 6, wherein said metal ions are selected from the group consisting of alkali metals; alkaline earth metals; transition metals selected from the group consisting of Group IIIA to Group VIIA elements, Group VIII elements, and Group IB elements; and rare earth elements.

8. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step b) is carried out by applying a predetermined magnetic field to said carbon nanotube so as to precipitate the carbon nanotube with the desired physical property.

9. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step b) is carried out by chromatography.

10. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said sample further contains a surfactant.

11. (original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sodium dodecyl sulfate, sodium dodecylbenzenesulfonate, Triton X, alkylsulfonates, sodium polyoxyethylene alkyl ether sulfate, benzalconium chloride, alkyltrimethylammonium chloride, benzyltrimethylammonium chloride, nonyl phenol ethoxylate, octyl phenyl polyoxyethylene ether, lauryl polyoxyethylene ether, and cetyl polyoxyethylene ether.

12. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said sample is a water-based dispersion or an aqueous solution of the carbon nanotubes.

13. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said carbon nanotubes are surface modified with a saturated or unsaturated carbon chain molecule having a carboxyl group or an amino group as a substituent in the molecule through a covalent bond, an ionic bond, a hydrogen bond, or an intermolecular interaction.

14. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said sample is a solution further containing a metal ion and an electron donor.

15. (original) The method according to claim 14, wherein said solution contains the metal ion at a concentration of 0.001 to 10%.

16. (original) The method according to claim 14, wherein said solution contains the electron donor at a concentration of 0.001 to 10%.

17. (original) The method according to claim 14, wherein said electron donor is selected from the group consisting of alcohols, amines, arginine, benzaldehyde, hydrazine, carboxylic acids, amino acids, toluene, alkylbenzenes, terpenes, ethers, silanes, and thiols.

Claims 18 – 36 (cancelled)